

**From:** [Foi Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** EIR-17-1082 - Cladding  
**Date:** 23 August 2017 13:48:30  
**Attachments:** [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

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Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request of 28 July 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

**I would like to know whether any council housing, past or present (that is bought privately by a former tenant) bears cladding made out of polystyrene, PUR or PIR. This relates to not only tower blocks, but all council homes.**

A number of single and two storey houses have been clad using Fire Retardant Additive Expanded Polystyrene which is then covered with a cementitious render as part of a programme to enhance the thermal performance of the properties. PUR or PIR insulation has not been used in housing and only non-combustible insulation has been used in tower blocks.

**I would like to know if any of these materials were used either at the time of construction or during later refurbishments.**

This cladding was used during later refurbishments.

**Can you confirm that Aberdeen City Council is aware of the RSA guidelines published in 2010 that make it clear that PIR contributes to fire load, and that even the better grades of PIR approved by the Loss Prevention Council can catch fire if the fire is well developed?**

The Royal & Sun Alliance guidelines are not used as part of a specification for cladding. The statutory backstop for specification is compliance with the Building Regulations 2003 or 1959 depending on the date the work was completed. All the thermal insulation schemes have been subject to building warrant approval.

**Given that there are safer alternatives to PIR – Mineral Fibre/Glass Wool and High Density Mineral Fibre, why is PIR so commonly used?**

As per the answer above, PIR insulation has not been used to clad Council housing. There are varying reasons other products may be used including thermal performance, structural loadings and fixing details. All cladding completed to Council housing comply with Building Regulations.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Grant Webster  
Information Compliance Officer

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST**

As the information which you requested is environmental information, as defined under Regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (the EIRs), ACC considered that it was exempt from release through FOISA, and must therefore give you notice

that we are refusing your request under Section 39(2) of FOISA (Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002). However, you have a separate right to access the information which you have requested under Regulation 5 of the EIRs, under which ACC has handled your request. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under the EIRs.

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